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A new *Adiantum* from New Mexico

BY LUCIEN MARCUS UNDERWOOD

In a small collection of ferns made by Professor F. S. Earle, in New Mexico, there is one *Adiantum* that has been confused with *A. capillus-veneris* of Europe. I find fragmentary specimens of the same plant in Wright's New Mexican collections of 1851-52 as represented in the Columbia Herbarium. I have called the fern

Adiantum modestum

Rootstock widely creeping, often 10-12 cm. long, covered with slender narrow pale brown scales; leaf-stalks scattered, slightly scaly at the base, purplish like the rachises; lamina bi-tripinnate, triangular-ovate, 10-12 cm. or more long, by 5-8 cm. or more wide; leaflets 6-8 mm. wide, nearly as long as wide, 2-5-lobed, but mainly 3-lobed, the incisions narrow and very shallow, the margin in sterile leaflets evenly serrate, those bearing sori similarly serrate between the sori; basal angle ranging from 90°-180°, the stalk and basal veins greenish white, or the former slightly tinged with brownish; sori oblong, 2-3 times as long as wide; veins 3-5 times forked, conspicuous; texture firm.

Roswell, New Mexico. "Abundant on rocks and grassy points overhanging the water of North Spring River," 3 August, 1900, *F. S. Earle*, no. 261 (type). New Mexico, *Wright*, no. 2123, 1851-52.

A plant related to *A. capillus-veneris* but differing from it in the smaller, less incised leaflets, their more rounded compact shape, in the fewer narrower sori, in the light-colored stalks to the leaflets, and in general habit.

The European specimens of *A. capillus-veneris* are usually much more laciniate than the American, but in *A. modestum* the leaflets are barely trilobed with very shallow sinuses.

Professor Eaton in his *Ferns of the Southwest* called attention to the fact that the Southwestern forms of *A. capillus-veneris* were less divided and more rounded than the typical form of the species and may have had in mind Wright's New Mexican plant which was one of the few cited in that work. That character, however, is

not seen in plants collected in Texas by Newberry and by Holden (C), nor in those collected by Hall (Y), nor in those collected in southern California by Stout (Y), and by Thayer (U), nor in those collected by MacDougal in Arizona in 1891 (U), which agree more nearly with the common European forms of *A. capillus-veneris*. Professor Earle has fortunately collected this fern in some quantity.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, 1 Jan. 1900.